

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for high velocity hydroforming a vehicle frame member including providing a hollow tubular member and a die having an internal die cavity. The tubular member is positioned within the die cavity and filled with a fluid. A shock
5 wave is created within the fluid, thereby causing hyperplastic forming of the tubular member to expand it outwardly into conformance with the shape of the die cavity. The shock wave can be created by discharging an electric arc between a pair of electrodes submerged within the fluid. The ends of the tubular member can be fed into the die
10 cavity during expansion to provide for a relatively uniform wall thickness in the deformed tubular member.